

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NZ2004/000079

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

Int. Cl. <sup>7</sup>: A61C 15/04, B65D 85/672, 75/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)  
 DWPI & IPC A61C, B65D, B65H and keywords (floss, dispense, card, cover, ratchet and similar terms); USPTO and keywords (dental floss, dispense, ratchet, cover, card); Espace and keywords (floss, dispenser, card)

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category* | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages                                   | Relevant to claim No. |
|-----------|--|-----------------------|
| X         | US 6302121 B1 (McCONNELL) 16 October 2001<br>See whole document (inventive step "X")                                 | 1-3,9,14,15,19        |
| A         | Derwent Abstract Accession No. 96-055608/06, Class Q36,<br>JP 07315697 A (NIFCO INC) 5 December 1995<br>See abstract |                       |
| A         | US 6295997 B1 (DICKIE) 2 October 2001<br>See abstract and figure   |                       |
| A         | EP 666224 A1 (JOHNSON & JOHNSON CONSUMER PRODUCTS INC) 9 August 1995<br>See figures                                  |                       |

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C☒ See patent family annex

|   |  |
|---|--|
| * Special categories of cited documents:  | "T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention  |
| "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance  | "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone   |
| "E" earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date   | "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art |
| "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) | "&" document member of the same patent family  |
| "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means  |  |
| "P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed  |  |

Date of the actual completion of the international search  
9 August 2004

Date of mailing of the international search report  
12 AUG 2004

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| C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT |  |                       |
|---|--|-----------------------|
| Category*   | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
| A   | US 5076423 A (RUSSACK) 31 December 1991<br>See abstract and figure                 |                       |

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**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

This international search report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a)

**Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)**

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

See supplementary sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☒ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

**Supplemental Box**

(To be used when the space in any of Boxes I to VIII is not sufficient)

**Continuation of Box No:**

The international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention because it does not relate to one invention or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept. In coming to this conclusion the International Searching Authority has found that there are different inventions as follows:

1. Claims 1-19. It is considered that a dispenser of filamentary material having a cover comprises a first "special technical feature".
2. Claims 20-27. It is considered that a dispenser of filamentary material having at least one wall portion with a circular aperture for receiving a bearing portion for the filament supply reel comprises a second special technical feature.
3. Claims 28-35. It is considered that a dispenser of filamentary material having a reel with rotation limiting means comprising a ratchet track comprises a third special technical feature.
4. Claims 36-38. It is considered that a dispenser of filamentary material having a reel with rotation limiting means comprising a ratchet track and at least one wall portion with a circular aperture for receiving a bearing portion for the filament supply reel comprises a fourth special technical feature.
5. Claims 39-40. It is considered that a dispenser of filamentary material having a reel with rotation limiting means comprising a ratchet track and a cover for the housing comprises a fifth special technical feature.

Since the abovementioned groups of claims do not share any of the technical features identified, a "technical relationship" between the inventions, as defined in PCT rule 13.2 does not exist. Accordingly the international application does not relate to one invention or to a single inventive concept, a priori.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

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This Annex lists the known "A" publication level patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned international search report. The Australian Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

| Patent Document Cited in<br>Search Report   |         |      |          | Patent Family Member |         |    |         |
|---|---------|------|----------|----------------------|---------|----|---------|
| US  | 6302121 | AU   | 67960/00 | BR                   | 0013630 | CA | 2381542 |
|   |         | EP   | 1212005  | WO                   | 0115621 |    |         |
| JP  | 7315697 | NONE |          |                      |         |    |         |
| US  | 6295997 | AU   | 79514/01 | US                   | 6295996 | WO | 0207643 |
| EP  | 0666224 | AU   | 11444/95 | BR                   | 9400259 | CA | 2141637 |
|   |         | JP   | 8040460  |                      |         |    |         |
| US  | 5076423 | NONE |          |                      |         |    |         |
| Due to data integration issues this family listing may not include 10 digit Australian applications filed since May 2001. |         |      |          |                      |         |    |         |
| END OF ANNEX  |         |      |          |                      |         |    |         |